

Social Experimentation: Evaluating Public Programs with Experimental Methods

A SERIES

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Preface

This paper is part of a series on the design and implementation of social experiments. These papers are intended to provide a relatively non-technical synthesis of the fundamental principles of the evaluation of public programs using experimental methods, for both those who design and conduct social experiments and those who use the results of experimental studies. A complete listing of the papers in this series is provided below.

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PAPERS IN THE SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION SERIES

- Part 1: Background and Rationale
- Part 2: Basic Concepts and Principles
- Part 3: Alternative Random Assignment Models
- Part 4: Sample Design
- Part 5: Implementation and Data Collection
- Part 6: Analysis
- Part 7: Social Experimentation and the Policy Process



The author is Chief Economist, Abt Associates, Inc. These papers were written while he was a visiting scholar in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, on leave from Abt.

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